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# Sailing Away

The tall ship Ernestina  
makes a historic  
voyage to Duxbury

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 The Patriot Ledger

**W**hat can you do with a drunken sailor?" sang mate Christopher Newlan, his words punctuated with grunts of "Two, Six, Heave!" as passengers strained to pull thick rope hand-over-hand.

"Oh, you shave his belly with a rusty razor . . . two, six, heave!" yelled Newlan.

The schooner Ernestina's canvas sails slowly inched their way up the old wooden mast, finally reaching the top. Tired passengers heaved their last ho and a sigh of relief into the salty air.

"And you thought that was going to be easy," a smiling chief mate Sophie Morse told her shipmates.

The 156-foot Ernestina glided into Duxbury Harbor at high tide shortly before noon Friday, kicking off a new summer season for the Duxbury Bay Maritime School.

The school holds adult and children's classes to promote maritime activities and the preservation of Duxbury Bay. On board were patrons of the school and students, who got a real-life lesson in the workings of wooden sailing ship.

The schooner sailed out of Onset in Wareham at 6 a.m. and worked its way through the Cape Cod Canal and up the coast to Duxbury.

A swarm of smaller vessels greeted the ship and accompanied her through Duxbury Bay into Snug harbor.

The Ernestina, the official state vessel, will remain docked in the harbor Saturday and Sunday. Tours will be conducted throughout the weekend.

The ship boosts awareness and raises funds for the school, said Duxbury Bay Maritime School volunteer Mary Jane O'Brien.



Navigator Chris Newlan works with Tyler O'Brien, 10, at the helm of the Ernestina.



Phil Mazzola of Kingston (right) documents the ship's arrival. Children from Duxbury Maritime School (above) have a relaxed breakfast on the water.



## Duxbury students taste sea life aboard tall ship

### ■ SHIP

Continued from Page 13

Students spent the morning learning about ropes, sails, and sea life.

Seven students spent Thursday night below deck, getting up at 5 a.m. Friday to help set sail. The children got the day off from the Duxbury schools for the trip and spent a good part of the morning trying to warm up.

Most summed up the experience in three words: "It was cold."

"I thought it was going to be warmer," said Broghan Cully, 10.

And jumping off was not an option, said 10-year old Matthew Hebert. "It's like Titanic water," icy-cold, he said.

Others had more pressing needs in mind.

"I want breakfast," declared Chad O'Brien, 14.

Parker "PJ" Longo, 10, said this was not his first time on board a ship, so he knew what to expect. He had spent a night on board the USS Salem in Quincy once with his father, Duxbury Town Manager Rocco Longo.

Sailing on the Ernestina beat out a day at Duxbury Elementary School, but, "It's work," said PJ.

"We learned how to rig different boats, and get up in a capsized," said 12-year-old Michael Heber.

Nineteen adults on board were friends and employees of the Plymouth Savings Bank, which donated \$5,000 toward the school.

The 10-member crew also included students. Intern Melissa DeValles, 18, is using the ship as a learning experience before she begins school in the fall at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

The interns do "a little bit of everything," DeValles said, much like the students they help teach.

The Ernestina was built in Essex and launched in 1894. First christened the Effie M. Morrissey, she began life as a fishing schooner.

Though now painted over, the original name is still carved into the ship's hull.

The ship was sold in 1914 to arctic explorer Captain "Bob" Bartlett, who sailed it within 600 miles of the North Pole in 1940, a record at the time. During World War II, the ship was used as an arctic supply and survey ship for the US Navy.

In 1946, she transported passengers and goods between Cape Verde and the United States.

In 1982, the people of Cape Verde presented the Ernestina to the United States, and after restoration she began her fourth career as a sailing school ship. She is now berthed in New Bedford.

After the students and passengers hoisted the sails, Newlan, the ships' educational program coordinator, explained why he had everyone yell "two-six-heave!" when pulling on rope.

Numbers two and six of a six-man cannon team, stationed on either side of the cannon, would heave it back into place after it was fired.

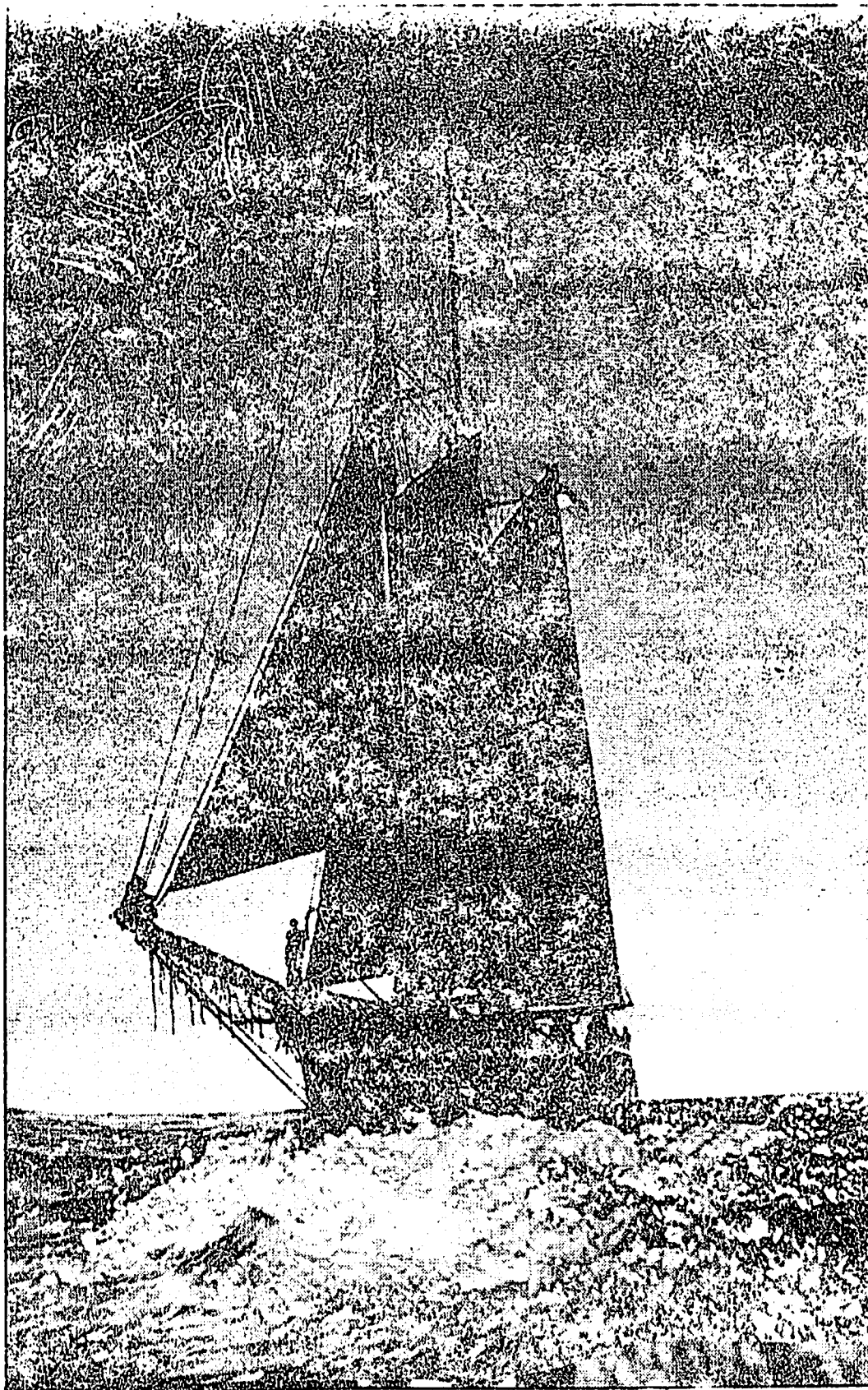
When the ship's cannon needed to be fired the captain would yell "two-six-heave," he said.

Duxbury resident Nancy Reed said all went well while pulling on the rope save one small problem — she broke a nail.

"With 15 people heaving, you think this is going to be easy. It's still really hard," she said.

(1 of 4)

## SHIPS AND SHIPPING



The tall ship Ernestina sails off Gurnet Head in route to Duxbury.